



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

November 27, 2017

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

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Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

Use the quick links below to access articles or sections included in this newsletter.

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On November 6, 2017, a webinar was presented regarding updates to the 2018 administration of the Connecticut SAT School Day and accommodations for special populations. [Slides from this webinar](#) are available. A [recorded version of this webinar](#) is also posted to our [Web site](#).

Highlights of the webinar included:

- English learners who receive 50 percent extended time on the Connecticut SAT School Day will now receive a college reportable score.
- The deadline to enter accommodations into Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) for the Connecticut SAT School Day is January 30, 2018.
- Admission tickets are not being used for the 2018 administration.
- Schools will use pre-id labels for student answer sheets.
- Schools will receive their answer sheets earlier than test books to allow time for schools to schedule a pre-administration session for students to complete demographics and enter four free score sends.

Connecticut SAT School Day ELA and Mathematics Workshops

The College Board, in conjunction with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), will be providing a workshop on December 12, 2017, at CES in Trumbull. The workshops will focus on:

- Results from the 2017 SAT School Day and ways to use your school's results.
- Content specific professional development resources available for your faculty and lessons on how you can use them in your department meetings.
- Khan Academy and Road Trip Nation resources that provide free opportunities for teachers to extend the benefits of the SAT beyond test results in the area of English language arts (ELA) and mathematics.

Each school (including Approved Private Special Education Programs) can register **two staff members** to participate in a half-day workshop.

December 12 [Register for Math](#) (10 a.m.-12 p.m.)

December 12 [Register for ELA](#) (12:30-2:30 p.m.)

CTAA

Connecticut Alternate Assessment



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Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

Alternative Program/Schools Off-Site Connecticut SAT School Day Testing Process For Alternate Program/Schools Who Want to Test at the High School

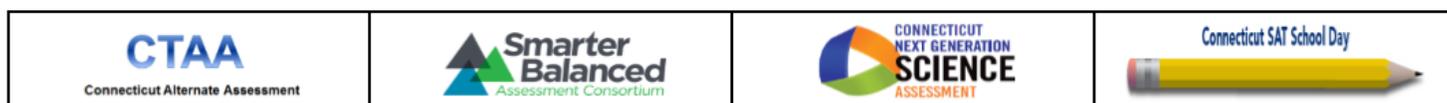
In previous years, some districts have tested some of their students from alternative programs/schools at the high school instead of the alternative school/program. In the past, this scenario was handled by mapping the two individual school’s codes to a common test center number. With the removal of the test center number for the 2018 administration, these scenarios must be addressed through the off-site testing process.

Therefore, if a district has an alternative program or school and the district would prefer students to test at a location other than the program/school they are listed as attending in the Public School Information System (PSIS), the district will need to request approval from the College Board by following these instructions:

1. [Download and save the 2017-18 Testing Plan.xls spreadsheet.](#)
2. Fill in the required cells in the “Questions” tab of the spreadsheet. Some required information includes name and address of the proposed testing location, off-site supervisor information, details on how materials will be kept secure, and how the site will meet seating and setup requirements. Use the “Instructions” tab in the spreadsheet for guidance.
3. Fill out the “Questions” tab for every off-site location your school needs by copying and pasting the “Questions” worksheet into a new tab.
4. Return the completed spreadsheet to testingplans@info.collegeboard.org no later than **December 15, 2017.**
5. The College Board will work with test supervisors requesting off-site testing locations to ensure the location meets the requirements. If necessary, they will contact test supervisors to make recommendations to improve security and to address any outstanding concerns. Please respond to inquiries in a timely manner to ensure approval of your off-site testing plan in time for test day. Once approved, an e-mail will be sent to the AI test supervisor communicating the approval.

Below is an example of the off site testing process.

School Set Up	Both Smith High School and Smith Alternative Academy are assigned individual College Board Attending Institution (AI) codes. Smith Alternative Academy completes an off-site testing plan (Excel template) and is assigned a test center code to test their students at Smith High School.
PSIS	Students are listed in PSIS under their attending AI/school.
SSD Online	Students accommodations are entered under their attending AI/school.
Bulk Registration	Students are bulk registered under their attending AI/school.
Materials Orders	Materials orders are placed at the attending AI level for students included in the bulk reg file. Non-standard materials orders are based on AI where accommodations are entered.
Materials Shipments	All materials, standard and nonstandard, are shipped to the student’s attending AI/school. It is the responsibility of the school to deliver the materials, including pre-ID labels, securely to the alternate testing location (high school).
Test Day	The student will select “I’m not testing at my high school” on their answer sheet. This will be different than the AI code on the board being entered by other test takers. Materials are returned together with the students from Smith High School.
Score Reporting	As part of the reporting requirements with CSDE, both the attending AI and the testing AI will be displayed during the student data review. CSDE will update the data file with the AI to be used for reporting, which in this case would be the attending AI (Smith Alternative Academy). Student score reports will be visible by the selected AI.



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Science Waiver Approved, Revised Summative Calendar and NGSS Field Test

A notification regarding the [Science Waiver Approval and Revised Summative Calendar](#) was sent to Superintendents from Commissioner Wentzell on October 19, 2017. Please consider the following when planning for the spring 2018 Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Field Test.

- This field test will be delivered using the American Institutes for Research (AIR) Test Delivery System. (This is the same system used to deliver the Smarter Balanced test.) Student accounts will also be managed through AIR's Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) for this field test.
- A [practice test](#) with examples of the new NGSS-aligned assessment items is available at the elementary-, middle- and high-school levels. Students in Grades 5, 8 and 11 may access the appropriate practice test prior to the administration of the NGSS Field Test in the spring.

Although, there will be a *recommended* time allotment for this field test, like Smarter Balanced, students will be allowed to use as much time as needed. Nobody will need to enter an accommodation or designated support for time extensions, because time extension is considered to be a non-embedded Universal Tool.

However, in the case of the NGSS Field Test, extended time will only be allowed on the *same school day* that the test was started. If a student goes home, then extended time will not be allowed on any subsequent day. While students may take breaks as needed, the test session must be completed on the same day it was started.

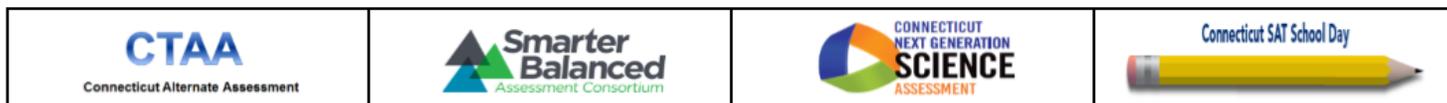
In addition to the Standard NGSS Field Test, there will also be a new Alternate NGSS Field Test this spring. As a result, teachers should not be administering the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science this school year. Teachers who are accessing alternate-assessment training now (or who were trained in 2015-16 or 2016-17) will be allowed to administer the new alternate assessment in the spring. Page 9 of the individualized education program (IEP) will not need to be altered if the Alternate Science was previously selected for students in Grades 5, 8 or 11.

Writing Portfolio Guides for the Assessment of Writing in Grades K-2

A November 2, 2017, [letter](#) from Ajit Gopalakrishnan to Superintendents of Schools announced the availability of optional writing resources available to schools for students in Grades K-2. Links to all of the resources are available in the [letter](#).

SAVE THE DATE:

Workshops for District Administrators regarding the 2018 Smarter Balanced Assessment, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Science, and Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) will be held January 17, 18 and 19, 2018. Connecticut SAT School Day workshops for Test Center Supervisors will be held on February 13 and 14, 2018.



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Special Populations Updates

English Learner Assessment Coordinator Workshop

Half-day workshops for English Learner Assessment Coordinators (ELACs) for the Online LAS Links Form C will be held December 13, 14, and 15, 2017, at the Institute of Technology and Business Development (ITBD) in New Britain. This live workshop is intended for **only** the ELAC and **one** other individual of their choice. Each district may send a total of two people to **ONE** of the sessions listed below. Registration will close on December 8, 2017. This workshop will be posted following the live workshop to support additional staff.

[Register for December 13–8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.](#)

[Register for December 13–12:30-4:00 p.m.](#)

[Register for December 14–8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.](#)

[Register for December 14–12:30-4:00 p.m.](#)

[Register for December 15–8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.](#)

[Register for December 15–12:30-4:00 p.m.](#)

Training Opportunity: Alternate Assessment Counts!

In response to new federal guidance, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is conducting multi-session trainings with regard to the testing of students with significant cognitive disabilities. The training sessions will provide information on the proper selection of these students as well as the requirements of increased monitoring during testing.

[Register for Session 1 in person: School-level leaders, Principals, Planning and Placement Team \(PPT\) Chairs](#)

[Register for Session 2 in person: District Administrator for testing, Special Education Directors, English Learner Coordinators, Department Leaders.](#) (For consistency and for federal accountability purposes, attendees for the *Alternate Assessment Counts! Session 2* **must have had** an individual from their school (or district, if applicable) participate in *Alternate Assessment Counts! Session 1* training.)

2017-18 CSDE Usability, Accessibility and Accommodations Training and 2017-18 CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training

District Administrators were e-mailed a letter regarding the [2017-18 CSDE Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Training, and 2017-18 CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training](#). Like last year, both trainings are available as an online or live in-person option. Please see the [letter](#) for more information.

Facilitating Communication for ELACs

In order to help ensure proper delivery of all e-mails to Connecticut district inboxes related to students identified as English learners, please work with your technical support personnel to add the following Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) e-mails listed below to your Whitelist/Safe Sender list. All DRC e-mails come from one of the following e-mail addresses.

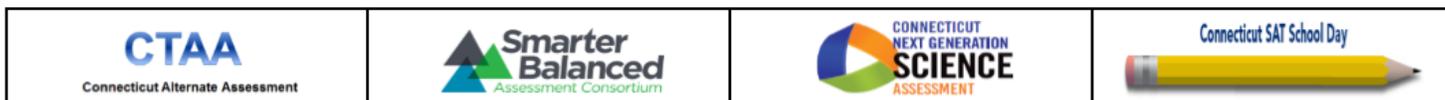
Data Recognition Corporation: contact@datarecognitioncorp.com

no-reply@datarecognitioncorp.com

Michael Bellowe: MBellowe@datarecognitioncorp.com

DRC LAS Links Technology Webinars

The ELACs were asked to identify and complete the Las Links Tech Survey for their district. Those individuals identified in the Tech Survey as the technology contact will receive an e-mail from DRC by December 1, 2017, inviting them to attend one of two technology webinars. These webinars will also be posted in the DRC Digital Library. For planning purposes the DRC LAS Links Technology Webinars will be conducted on December 8, 2017, and January 5, 2018.



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Updates for Special Populations

Update of the Teacher Administering the Alternate (TEA) role in TIDE

The CSDE is updating the Teacher Administering the Alternate (TEA) user-role list in TIDE based on whether a teacher's state-required training is current. This updated list will be available November 21, 2017, only to the District Administrator-level user role.

Only those TEAs with current training will be able to submit the Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI) into the Data Entry interface (DEI) which registers a student for the Alternate Assessments, as well as to administer the Alternate Assessments in spring of 2018.

If these individuals will be administering the Alternate Assessments in the 2017-18 school year and are current in their CSDE training they should have received an e-mail by November 10, 2017, from AIR to update their TEA accounts.

Individuals who will be administering the Alternate Assessments in the 2017-18 school year and are not current in their CSDE training will need to register for the [2017-18 Alternate Assessment System training](#). These educator names will be added to the TIDE trained-teacher list once they have completed and passed the course. At that time, they will receive an e-mail from AIR to create a password.

The TEA accounts are typically issued for specific schools based on school codes. If a trained educator will be administering the alternate assessments in multiple schools, they will need to contact their District Administrator who will then contact the AIR helpdesk (1-844-202-7583 or cthelpdesk@air.org) with the appropriate school facility codes to gain access at each school.



Interim Assessment Hand Scoring Training

Three half-day, in-person training of the trainers sessions will provide participants with an overview of the Smarter Balanced Teacher Hand Scoring System (THSS) used to score open-ended student responses on the Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs). Trainings will be held at the CSDE, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford. This training is appropriate for beginners to the THSS; or new teachers, district and school administrators who will be hand scoring or training hand scorers of the interim assessments.

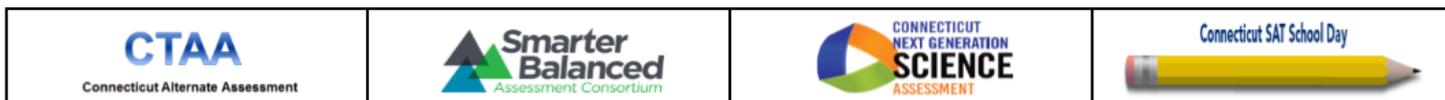
At each training, there will be a review of the scoring process and related scoring materials (rubrics, exemplars, and training guides) that can then be applied to the scoring of specific IABs administered in your classrooms. Participants will be led through a brief hand-scoring training of Reading and Writing, with a concluding presentation that connects results to the AIR Ways Reporting System and next steps for improving instruction. Participants must have a TIDE user account and must bring a laptop. Please contact [Deirdre Ducharme](#) or [Cristi Alberino](#) if you have questions.

To register select the session date and click below:

[Register for December 4, 2017-9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.](#)

[Register for December 11, 2017-9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.](#)

[Register for January 12, 2018-9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.](#)



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CMT/CAPT 2016-17 Science Results on EdSight

Results from the 2016-17 CMT/CAPT Science are available on [EdSight](#) and [EdSight Secure](#). The results include Grades 5, 8 and 10 and are available by state, district and school.

Desmos Calculator on Smarter Balanced Assessments

During 2018 spring testing, the Desmos calculators will be embedded in the online tests that require calculators. Broadly speaking, this includes the upper level, Smarter Balanced tests in mathematics, and also the NGSS field test in science. The Desmos calculators come in three versions. There is the basic Desmos *four-function calculator*, the Desmos *scientific calculator*, as well as the Desmos *graphing calculator*. Student access to the calculators is based on grade, subject and item being assessed. For the Smarter Balanced Mathematics Test, Grade 6 students will have access to the four-function calculator, while Grade 7 and 8 students will be using the scientific calculator.

The NGSS Science Field Test will be administered this year at Grades 5, 8, and 11. For the science field test; Grade 5 students will use the four-function calculator, Grade 8 students will use the [scientific calculator](#), and Grade 11 students will use the [graphing calculator](#).

The scientific and graphing Desmos Calculators that appear on the Connecticut Statewide Assessments differ somewhat from the freely available Desmos calculators that anyone can find online. For a full list of differences, please see the [Desmos Testing page](#). General information about the calculators can be found at www.Desmos.com. However, students can practice with the test version by accessing these links to the [Scientific Calculator](#) and the [Graphing Calculator](#). The testing versions of these calculators can also be found by clicking on the “Students & Families” card in the Connecticut testing portal, then choosing “Student and Families Resources” then “Practice Tools.” Please see this [Desmos Video](#) for more information on these calculators.

The CSDE and College Board will cover the entire cost of 2018 AP exams for low-income students who attend public school in Connecticut.

Want to find recent announcements regarding Connecticut’s assessments? Please visit the CSDE’s [Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal](#). You will find information about each assessment, as well as technology resources and information for students and families.



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Important Dates

Event	Dates
The secure browsers for the 2017-18 school year must be downloaded for all 2017-18 online test administrations	Currently available
Learner Character Interface (LCI) Opens Data Entry Interface (DEI) Opens	November 21, 2017
CT SAT ELA and Math Workshops	November 27, 2017 and December 12, 2017
English Learner Assessment Coordinators (ELAC) Workshop	December 13, 14 and 15, 2017
English Language Proficiency LAS Links Form C ONLINE	January 3-March 9, 2018
District Administrator Workshops	January 17, 18 and 19, 2018
Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI) Final Submission Deadline	January 19, 2018–Grade 11 March 16, 2018–Grades 3-8
Connecticut SAT School Day State Allowed Accommodations Window	January 25, 2018-March 15, 2018
Connecticut SAT School Day Accommodations Window Deadline	January 30, 2018
Connecticut SAT School Day TCS Workshops	February 13 and 14, 2018
Connecticut SAT School Day	Primary Test Date: March 21, 2018 Makeup Dates: April 24 and 25, 2018
NGSS Field Test	March 26-May 25, 2018 (Grade 11) April 30-May 25, 2018 (Grades 5 and 8)
NGSS Alternate Science Field Test	April 30-May 25, 2018 (Grades 5, 8 and 11) (Upload Window)
Connecticut Smarter Balanced	March 26-May 25, 2018
Connecticut Alternate Assessment	March 26-May 25, 2018

Register for email updates

To automatically receive the *Student Assessment News* and/or other announcements, [register for e-mail updates](#) on the Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal.

CTAA

Connecticut Alternate Assessment



Connecticut SAT School Day

